

BRITISH CLOSING ON GEN. CRONJE

A Belief Prevails in London That the Boer Leader Has Been Hopelessly Surrounded.

NEWS AWAITS CONFIRMATION

The War Office Has Received a Telegram of Satisfactory Nature, but Prefers Not to Make It Public Until Confirmed by Later Reports—Much Anxiety Has Been Aroused by the Report. General Buller May Again Attempt to Relieve Ladysmith—Queen Congratulates General Roberts and His Troops.

London, Feb. 20.—2.45 a. m.—A member of the cabinet told H. W. Lucy tonight that the war office had received a telegram announcing that General Cronje was hopelessly surrounded.

The Boers' line of fortresses is broken. The British have achieved a decided success in capturing the enemy's position on Monte Cristo. The Boers, however, effectively executed a retreat, moving their guns and convoy wagons. The British had comparatively few casualties.

Mr. Wyndham was beset by anxious members of the house, but would only reply that the government's news was extremely satisfactory. The sole explanation of the government withholding good news is that confirmation and more details are awaited.

It is impossible to say exactly how many of the British were killed and wounded, but of the 200 Wilshire 142 were captured, and of these forty-four were wounded. The Boers lost two killed and four wounded. They occupy all the Rensburg positions formerly occupied by the British, whose rear guard is at Rietfontein, with the frontiers close up.

The situation as disclosed by correspondents over the Free State border is tantalizing to the public expectations. The elementary facts are that the Boers are trekking eastward toward Rietfontein, with slow moving baggage trains, and that they are pursued by Lord Kitchener, with General Kelly-Kenny's division, General Macdonald, with the Highlanders, made a forced march to Koodoos Rand ford and on Sunday pushed twenty miles eastward.

It appears from advices received here that the loot captured by the burghers yesterday near Kofyfontein included over 3,000 head of cattle and a number of wagons, eighteen of which were taken in an ambulance half-way to the relief of Kimberley. A number of prisoners were also taken.

Heavy fighting is reported today around Kimberley, where General Cronje is said to be holding his own.

It is reported that the British are making a careful study of the conditions in the Free State, and that the action would not produce sufficient revenue to meet the expenses of the government. He estimated that not more than \$2,000,000 could be collected from both customs duties and internal revenue tax.

Meanwhile, Commandant Delarey, with the Boers from Coloburg, is hanging on to the right flank of the British pursuing columns, seeking to delay their movements and so assist the Boer wagon trains to escape.

It is said that the British abandoned the convoy, in order not to check the advance. Thus 200 wagons and 600 tons of stores fall into the hands of the Boers, though it is doubtful if they will be able to carry them away.

Students of topography think the Boers will hardly risk a fight until they get into the rough country north of Bloemfontein.

At the Cape Town telegraph office today, a messenger under a flag of truce had previously arranged the programme. The prisoners had a cordial interview with General Clements and were then taken in an ambulance half-way to the Boer camp.

The Daily Mail correspondent, who was with the British when they were attacked by the Boers at Riet river ford, wires:

"Ultimately the British abandoned the convoy, in order not to check the advance. Thus 200 wagons and 600 tons of stores fall into the hands of the Boers, though it is doubtful if they will be able to carry them away."

Lord Roberts' generalship was conducted with such secrecy, says a telegram from Modder river, that even the senior officers who took the sixth division through the preliminaries of operation did not know what they would finally have to do.

At the War Office. In the lobbies of the house of commons last evening, however, it was rumored that General Cronje's army was surrounded, that General French had got between the Boer forces and Bloemfontein, and that he was only awaiting reinforcements to close in on the enemy.

No confirmation of this rumor is obtainable, although the general idea is that the government has received important dispatches.

Chieveley, Monday morning, Feb. 19.

PAYNE TALKS UPON PORTO RICAN TARIFF

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE OPENS THE DEBATE.

Duty of the United States Toward the Island—Absolute Free Trade Would Be Injurious to the Nation—Proposed Remission of 75 Per Cent. of Present Duty on Sugar and Tobacco an Advantage.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The debate upon the Porto Rican tariff bill, which is to continue throughout the week and possibly longer, opened in the house today. On all hands it is agreed that this bill, although it applies only to Puerto Rico, involving, as it does, the question of how to govern our new possessions outside the limitations of the constitution, is the most important measure which will come before this congress. In the bill before the house there is a provision that the Democrats are solidly arrayed against the measure and they will have powerful support from the Republican side in Mr. Call, of Massachusetts, and Mr. Littlefield, of Maine, both able and forceful debaters.

Mr. Payne, the floor leader of the majority, refused to agree that a vote should be taken on a substitute to be offered by the minority. This substitute, which has not been framed, will be in substance the bill originally introduced by Mr. Payne, providing for free trade with Puerto Rico by the extension of the customs and revenue laws of the United States over the island. The debate today lacked excitement. It was in the nature of a long range bombardment before the clash of the contending forces in battle. Mr. Payne opened with a general argument in support of the bill, going largely into the material side of the situation, which the bill is designed to relieve.

best interests of the people of the United States are both subserved in this bill. Mr. Richardson, the Democratic leader, joined issues upon the power of congress to enact the proposed legislation and Mr. Datto, of Pennsylvania, backed up Mr. Payne with a constitutional and legal argument. All the while he listened to with close attention.

MARRIED IN BALTIMORE.

William Morris, of This City, Weds a Daughter of Dixie.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 19.—With one of the prettiest home weddings of the winter, William Morris, of Scranton, Pa., and Miss Miriam H. Pretzfelder were united in marriage this evening at 7 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, No. 228 Eutaw place, Rev. Dr. Rosenaur, rabbi of the Eutaw Place temple, performing the ceremony. The house was lavishly decorated with tropical plants and American Beauty roses and the celebrated Baltimore orchestra discoursed music during the ceremony and reception and while the guests were enjoying one of Dixie's most delicate suppers. The wedding was a family affair, only the most intimate friends of the contracting parties outside of the relatives being present. Those from Scranton were: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Morris, parents of the groom; Simon Morris and Miss Miriam H. Pretzfelder, brother and sister of the groom; Colonel Arthur Long and Sadore Krotosky. The newly married couple left at 10 o'clock on a trip which will include Old Point Comfort, Washington, Atlantic City, Lakewood and New York. Mr. Morris is a member of the Baltimore club and will temporarily at the Jersey hotel, Scranton and in the course of a month will return to Baltimore to make their permanent home, the groom having retired from his business in Scranton to become associated with the wholesale shoe firm of H. Pretzfelder & Co., of this city.

WAR ARGUMENT IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

Discussion of the Report of the Committee of Supply on the Vote for the Addition of 120,000 Men to the Army.

London, Feb. 19.—During the discussion of the report of the committee of supply on the vote for the addition of 120,000 men to the army, William Redmond opposed the measure. He denounced the scheme as a "miserable makeshift."

Michael Joseph Flavin, Nationalist member from Nova Kerry, moved to reduce the vote of \$13,000,000 by \$12,000,000. Various other Irish members raised protests from different points of view against the war.

Mr. Wyndham, replying, said: "The government is doing its best in circumstances of great difficulty to preserve the peace and to prevent the Boers from attacking any other nation we are not going to prevent that nation from defending itself."

John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, declared that the principal European nations were against Great Britain in this war on the great mass public opinion in the United States.

Mr. Flavin's motion was rejected by 235 votes against 21. After further discussion the debate was closed on the motion of Mr. Balfour, and the vote was carried by 207 against 21.

ARRESTS IN KENTUCKY.

Parties Suspected of Complicity in Goebel Assassination Captured.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 19.—J. L. Sutton, the sheriff of Whitley county, who was arrested recently on a charge of complicity in the Goebel assassination, was brought here from Louisville to testify before County Judge Moran, and was admitted to bail. This was the result of an agreement between the attorneys for the prosecution and the defense. Sutton left for home tonight in company with his uncle, State Inspector C. N. Lister. Harland Whitaker, who is also charged with complicity in the assassination, was also returned from Louisville and turned over to the local authorities, but no steps were taken in his case and he is still in jail. Lee Jang, another suspect, is also in jail here.

RUSSIA NEEDS COAL.

Tariff Rates Will Be Reduced in the Near Future.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Russia, also, according to a report to the state department, from Vice Consul General Hammer, at Frankfort, is suffering severely from the length of coal and many workmen have been thrown out of employment by the closing of factories.

It is said that the government will soon reduce the present tariff rates on coal, iron and cast iron, destined for factories in the Baltic and St. Petersburg districts within sixty miles of the coast.

Football Game Arranged.

Philadelphia, Feb. 19.—John Bell, chairman of the Pennsylvania football team, today announced that a football game had been arranged between Pennsylvania and Columbia universities, to be played on Oct. 13th or 20th. This is the first football game that has ever been arranged between the two universities and will probably lead to a series of contests.

Pennsylvania Pensions.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Pension certificates issued under date Feb. 5, 1900, are as follows: Original widows, Harold L. Minger, Sayre, Bradford, 8. War with Spain (widows and orphans), Lucy Langley, mother, Scranton, 12.

DECISION AGAINST ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS REVERSES DECREE.

Victory for the Inter-Ocean Publishing Company of Chicago—Opinion of Justice Phillips Is to the Effect That News Should Be Sold to All Newspaper Publishers Desiring to Purchase.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 19.—In the appeal of the Inter-Ocean Publishing company against the Associated Press the supreme court today rendered an opinion reversing the decree entered by the Cook county circuit court and the appellate court for the first district and remanding the case to the circuit court with directions to enter a decree as prayed for in the original bill filed by the Inter-Ocean Publishing company to restrain the Associated Press from suspending or expelling the petitioner from its membership and from refusing to furnish it news according to its contract.

This bill attempted to set up the fact that the Associated Press had been able to control the business of buying and accumulating news in Chicago and selling the same and had thus created for itself an exclusive monopoly, and to preserve such monopoly had declared the Sun Printing and Publishing association a rival or competitor and antagonistic to it and sought to prohibit its members from buying or selling news on a basis of suspension or expulsion. It was also alleged that the appellee had compelled some of its members, by threats to cease buying the special news of the Sun Printing and Publishing association and its contract with its members, including the appellee, the appellee filed an answer to the bill and a hearing was had, the circuit court dismissing the bill for want of equity and on appeal to the appellate court this decree was affirmed. The supreme court now reverses this decree and remands the case. The opinion, written by Justice Phillips, holds that the manner in which the corporation has used its franchise has charged its business with public interest. It has devoted its property to a public use and has in effect granted to the public such an interest in it that it must submit to be controlled by the public for the common good to the extent of interest thus created in the public in its private property. The sole purpose for which news was sold and all newspaper publishers desiring to purchase such news, the appellee is entitled to purchase the same without discrimination against them.

Unlawful Competition.

The clause in the contract which sought to restrict the appellant from obtaining news from other sources than from the appellee is in violation of the restriction upon the trade and business among the citizens of a common country. Competition can never be held hostile to public interest and efforts to prevent it by contract or otherwise can never be looked upon with favor by the courts.

The court finds that the by-laws of the appellee corporation, which seeks to prevent its members from publishing their special or other news or receiving news from any source, declared by it as hostile, is not proper for corporate purposes, nor included within the purpose of the creation of the corporation.

To enforce the by-law and contracts made under it would enable the appellee to designate the character of news to be published and whether true or false, there could be no check on it by publishing news from other sources. Appellee would be powerful in the creation of a monopoly in its favor and could dictate the character of news to be published and whether true or false, there could be no check on it by publishing news from other sources.

SENATOR CLARK'S MISSION.

Simply Wished to Overthrow Daly's Rule in Montana.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Senator Clark, of Montana, was again today the star witness before the senate committee on privileges and elections, notwithstanding reports to the contrary. Justice Hunt's "family physician" also was heard. Dr. Tracy's statement concerning his interviews with Justice Hunt corroborated the testimony of the Justice in all the essential detail except that his recollection of the date of the trial was Feb. 18, 1900, and not Feb. 19, 1900, as mentioned by him as the price the Justice could get for having the Wellcome disbursement case thrown out of the Supreme court of Montana. He said that Justice Hunt was an intimate friend, and asserted that his motive was to test Justice Hunt's ability to withstand the corrupting influence of money. He had received no funds from any source to pay the bribe suggested, and had promised none for that purpose.

Mr. Clark necessarily went over much of the ground covered by him in his testimony Saturday. He was cross-examined by Mr. Campbell, and insisted that he had spent no money for corrupt purposes during the Montana senatorial campaign.

Confessed Murderer.

Reading, Pa., Feb. 19.—Lois H. Row, a prisoner in Berks county jail, in great distress of mind today sent for officials and confessed he had murdered a man near Cambridgeport, Lebanon county, six years ago. The officials telegraphed to the state and received a reply that a murdered stranger's body was found under a straw stack in 1894 and was buried as an "unknown." Officials are investigating.

Thinks the Dog Is Mad.

Lancaster, Pa., Feb. 19.—Dr. T. C. Detwiler, one of the leading physicians of this city, has a pet dog, for the purpose of ascertaining at the Pasteur institute whether the animal has the rabies. It has bit a number of persons since Friday, including the doctor's daughter.

Bounty for Army Order.

London, Feb. 19.—An army order issued tonight invites the reservists to rejoin the colors for a year, for home defense, and offers \$22 bounty to those who do so.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Harrisburg, Feb. 19.—Dr. I. F. Schminke, one of the oldest practicing physicians of Central Pennsylvania, died today at his home in Gratz, this county, aged 67. He was a member of the legation in 1871 and 1872. His wife, Mrs. Annie E. Lodge, mother of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, died at her home in this city today. She was 79 years of age.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: PARTLY CLOUDY; WARMER.

- 1 General—Lord Roberts' Army After General Cronje. Attack on the Sugar Trust. Supreme Court Ruling Against the Associated Press. Congress Discusses Proposed Porto Rican Tariff.
2 General—Northwestern Pennsylvania, Financial and Commercial.
3 Local—Day's Doings in the Courts. News of Dunmore Borough.
4 Editorial.
5 News and Comment.
6 General—The Dying Century Passed in Review. Growth of Uncle Sam's Steel Industry.
7 Local—Meeting of the Board of Trade. Annual Report of the Second Anthracite District.
8 Local—Auditing Committee Considers Deficiency Bills. Death of Thomas Richards.
9 Local—West Scranton and Suburban.
10 Round About the County.
11 Local—Live Industrial News.

ROMANCE OF PHILIPPINES.

Lieutenant Fiscus Will Marry the Daughter of General Wheeler.

Philadelphia, Feb. 19.—The announcement is made of the engagement of Lieutenant W. W. Fiscus, Nineteenth United States Infantry, now stationed in the Philippines, to Miss Annie Wheeler, the youngest daughter of General Wheeler, who has just been received by the lieutenant's sister, Dr. Blanche F. Greaves, of this city. Lieutenant Fiscus' acquaintance with Miss Wheeler dates from the time he was a cadet at West Point, where General Wheeler's two sons were his classmates. Miss Wheeler, who frequently visited her brothers at the military academy, and in this way made the acquaintance of Cadet Fiscus.

Fiscus served through the Santiago campaign and shortly after the surrender of Santiago was stricken with typhoid fever and was brought with other sufferers to New York. His life was despaired of, but he pulled through and accompanied his regiment to the Philippines. The same transport which carried Lieutenant Fiscus to the Philippines also had as passengers General Wheeler and his daughter, Miss Annie Wheeler, who was going out as an army nurse. Miss Wheeler and her father are now on their way to the United States on the transport Warrenton.

As soon as Lieutenant Fiscus can obtain leave of absence from duty in the Philippines, Lieutenant Fiscus is a son of W. W. Fiscus, who is well-known in the western part of Pennsylvania, having been twice sheriff and once treasurer of Armstrong county.

SCARCITY OF COAL.

May Make Demand for More Sailing Ships.

New York, Feb. 19.—The increasing scarcity of coal, the general, and particularly at all coal fields, for ocean-going vessels, a coal operator said today, "will possibly revive the usefulness of the deep water sailing vessels. There are indications that such ships as are now built at Bath, Me., and from any excellent construction, will be more and more profitable. We have heard it said for instance that the Standard Oil company has been contracting for or purchasing as much of the sail tonnage as possible.

It is said to be impossible to run a freight line from Philadelphia to New York or to the Orient profitably in these days. I have heard of one vessel that will leave this city with 2,000 tons of coal for her own consumption, solely because of the difficulty of getting fuel at the coaling stations along the route.

"The increased expenses effects the tramp steamers seriously, and it is believed that they will ultimately be driven out of business if the present conditions continue. There is no doubt that sailing ships will be in greater demand than ever the value of them has been enormously in the past few years."

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VICTORY FOR THE VALLEY.

May Now Cross an Old Lane in Jersey City.

New York, Feb. 19.—The Lehigh Valley Railroad company gained a decisive victory today in Jersey City, when it was left free to cross the old lane in the Greenville section of Jersey City at grade and run its tracks across that point. The tracks were laid a year ago. The railroad company found a crossing at Old Lane necessary to enable it to connect its main line with its independent freight terminus and prospective independent passenger terminus which are planned in lower Jersey City.

When the Lehigh Valley arranged to cross the old lane the Jersey City police prevented the crossing, the claim being made that the lane is a public street. Corporation Counsel McDermott investigated and now declares that the lane was never dedicated as a street, and that there is nothing to prevent crossing.

Corporations Chartered.

Harrisburg, Feb. 19.—These corporations were chartered today by the state department: Fayette Publishing Co., Uniontown, capital \$200; The American Brochec Co., Philadelphia, capital \$5,000; McKean Apartment Co., Pittsburg, capital \$10,000; The United States Knit Mill Co., Hawley, capital \$40,000; The Monroe Land Co., Stroudsburg, capital \$25,000; Norway Iron and Steel Co., of York, Spring Garden township, York county, capital \$200,000; The Manufacturers Water Co., Johnstown, capital \$1,000; Carmichael Light, Heat and Power Co., Carmichael, capital \$100,000.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Forecast for Tuesday and Wednesday: Partly cloudy and not so cold Tuesday; warm and probably rainy Wednesday; variable winds shifting to easterly.

A Boer Account.

Lorenzo Marques, Monday, Feb. 19.—A correspondent who was with the Boer forces in the attack upon Rensburg gives further particulars regarding the capture of the Wilshires. He says: "Commandant Peller, who arrived first, found two companies of the Wilshires, and began attacking in the open. Soon after he was joined by a body of Free States, and together they drove the British back from the neighboring kopjes, capturing all but three. "It is impossible to say exactly how many of the British were killed and wounded, but of the 200 Wilshires 142 were captured, and of these forty-four were wounded. The Boers lost two killed and four wounded. They occupy all the Rensburg positions formerly occupied by the British, whose rear guard is at Rietfontein, with the frontiers close up."

It appears from advices received here that the loot captured by the burghers yesterday near Kofyfontein included over 3,000 head of cattle and a number of wagons, eighteen of which were taken in an ambulance half-way to the relief of Kimberley. A number of prisoners were also taken.

Heavy fighting is reported today around Kimberley, where General Cronje is said to be holding his own.

Methuen at Kimberley.

London, Feb. 20.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily News, telegraphing Sunday, says: "Lord Methuen's force, I learn, has arrived at Kimberley, having got through from Magersfontein without fighting."

BOER PRISONERS RETURNED.

Commandant Pretorius and Three Others Sent Back by British.

Arundel, Sunday, Feb. 18.—Commandant Pretorius, who was captured by the British at Elandsbaagte, and three other Boer prisoners, were handed over to the Boers from Arundel today. A messenger under a flag of truce had previously arranged the programme. The prisoners had a cordial interview with General Clements and were then taken in an ambulance half-way to the Boer camp.

QUEENSBURY WILL.

Desired to Have His Remains Cremated.

London, Feb. 19.—A codicil to the will of the Marquis of Queensbury, who died on February 1, made the following provisions: "At my death I wish to be cremated, and direct that my ashes be placed in the earth unenclosed, 'earth to earth, ashes to ashes,' in any spot convenient that I have loved.

"I particularly request that no Christian mummurings or tombstones be performed at the grave, but that I should be cremated as an agnostic. If it should be a comfort to any one there is plenty of friends who would come to say a few words of common sense.

"No monument will be required nor any procession, as the ashes can be carried in a man's hand. If the places I mention to my son should be inconvenient for my burial, then any place would suffice where the stars shall ever shed their light and the sun shall gild each rising morning."

Mr. Reed in the House.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Speaker Reed was about the house today for the first time since his retirement from congress, and his appearance was the signal for quite a levee in the ways and means committee room. He conferred with most of the Republican members of the ways and means committee. Mr. Reed is in the city to attend to business before the departments.

Dan Hanna Married.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 18.—Dan R. Hanna, son of Senator M. A. Hanna, was married this afternoon to Mrs. Daisy Gordon Maud, at the residence of the bride's father, in Glenview, a suburb of this city. The bride is 28 and the groom 35 years of age.

Sharkey Knocks Out Jeffords.

Detroit, Feb. 19.—Tom Sharkey knocked out Jim Jeffords, of California, in the second round, tonight.